



## *Multipurpose Open Space*

**A**s described in earlier sections, Desert Center contains a variety of open space and natural features. These include the Eagle, Chuckwalla, and Coxcomb Mountains, and the Colorado Desert Habitat, characterized by sandy desert, low-lying, widely spaced shrubs, and high temperatures.

This Multipurpose Open Space section is a critical component in maintaining the character of the unincorporated areas of Riverside County and Desert Center. Providing a scenic background and preserving the natural character of the area, these open spaces also help define the character and edges of Desert Center communities.

## **LOCAL OPEN SPACE POLICIES**

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### **Wildlife Habitat**

Much of the southern portion of the Desert Center area south of Interstate 10 and west of Kaiser Road has been identified as Desert Tortoise Critical Habitat by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and is mapped in Figure 8, Desert Tortoise Reserve. Moreover, because the remainder of the desert environment is particularly sensitive to intrusion and damage, it is also worthy of preservation attention. The policy orientation here is therefore to continue the pattern of clustered development that already exists.

#### **Policies:**

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| DCAP 10.1 | Encourage clustering of development for the preservation of contiguous open space.                 |
| DCAP 10.2 | Work to limit off-road vehicle use within the Desert Center Area Plan.                             |
| DCAP 10.3 | Require new development to conform with Desert Tortoise Critical Habitat designation requirements. |